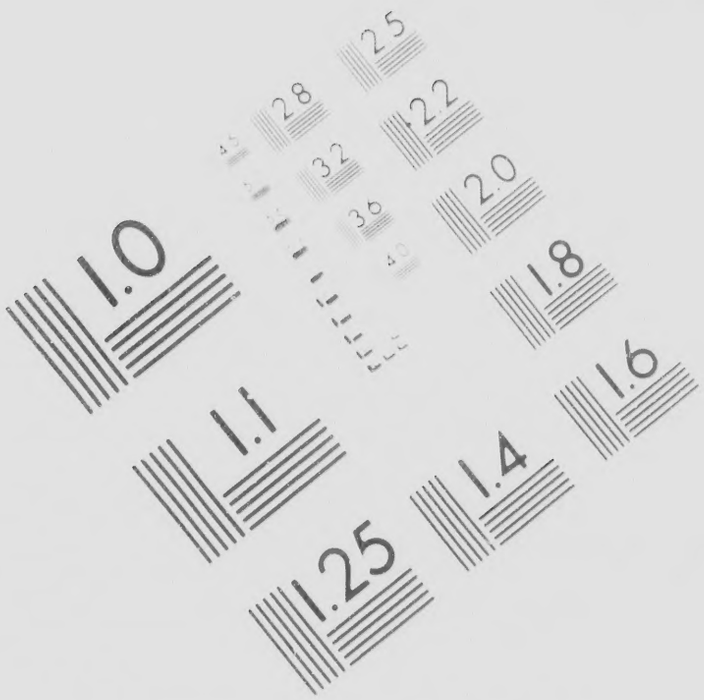

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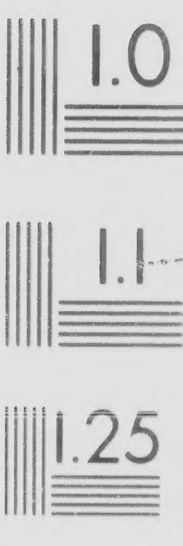

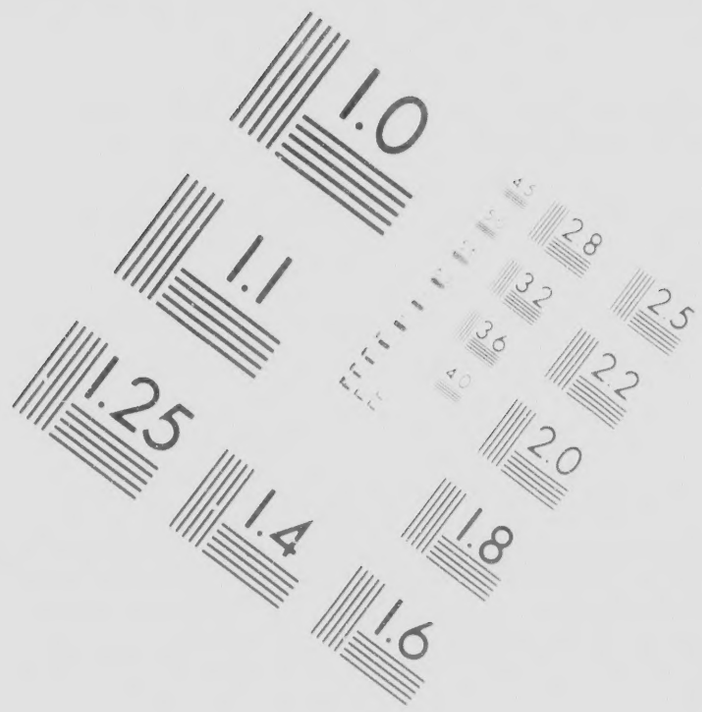

E EVALUATION
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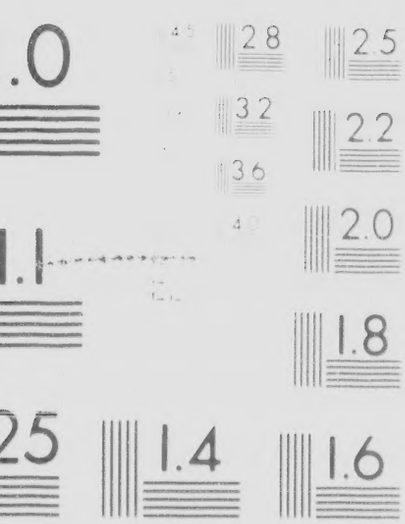

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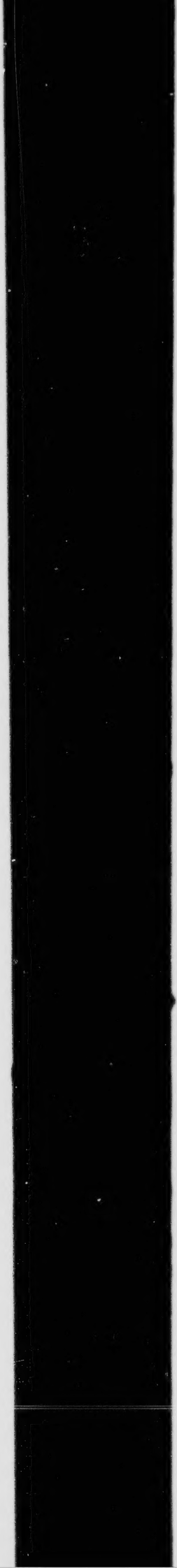

The grand Committee,

among other Things, referred a motion of Mr. Mc
SIONS and DIVISION of WEST
TERRITORY,—

REPORT,—

THAT they have conſidered the ſaid motion, and exam
of the ſeveral relative to the ceſſions of weſtern lands
ed States, to forming the ſame into ſtates, and the future
that the ſtate of New-York ceded their claims to thoſe weſ
generally, and without any condition as to the extent of the
ed; and that Congreſs, October 10, 1780, having (amon
the unappropriated lands that may be ceded to the Unite
purſuant to the recommendation of Congreſs of September
diſtinct republican ſtates; that each ſtate which ſhall be fo
ble extent of territory, not leſs than one hundred, nor m
miles ſquare, or as near thereto as circumſtances will admi
and Virginia, in purſuance of ſaid reſolve, have made ceſſi
ſaid lands and territory, beyond certain limits, on conditi
to ſtates of the extent aforeſaid, which ceſſions have been
ſion of which conditions, it is become obligatory on the f
the ſaid lands into ſtates, to form them of the ſame extent;
altered by conſent of the ſaid ſtates; but ſuch a diviſion of
the opinion of the committee, be in any degree practicab
boundaries of it, or for the intereſt of the confederacy; acc
muſt be ſo ſituated as to have no advantages of navigation
by rivers, lakes and mountains; and many of them muſt
tion of barren and unimprovable lands.

It is, in the opinion of the committee, highly expedien
try ſhould be formed into governments as ſoon as poſſible
deracy; that order and the true principles of government n
and they become an acceſſion of ſtrength to the union.
into ſtates, agreeable to the ſyſtem at preſent adopted, th

e, consisting of

to whom were,
Monroe, respecting the CES-
STERN LANDS and

xamined the acts of Congress, and
nds and territory within the Unit-
ture government thereof; and find
western lands beyond certain limits
f the states that may be there form-
among other things) resolved, that
nited States by any particular state,
nber 6, 1780, shall be formed into
be so formed, shall contain a suita-
r more than one hundred and fifty
dmit. The states of Massachusetts
cessions of their respective claims to
ndition that the same be formed in-
been accepted by Congress; by rea-
he federal government in dividing
nt; unless those conditions shall be
n of the western country cannot, in
icable, conformable to the natural
; according to this plan, some states
ation; some inconveniently divided
ust probably contain a large propor-

edient that settlements in that coun-
sible, and admitted into the confe-
ent may be established among them,
n. But if that country be divided
d, the probability is, that many of
inhabitants to form a government

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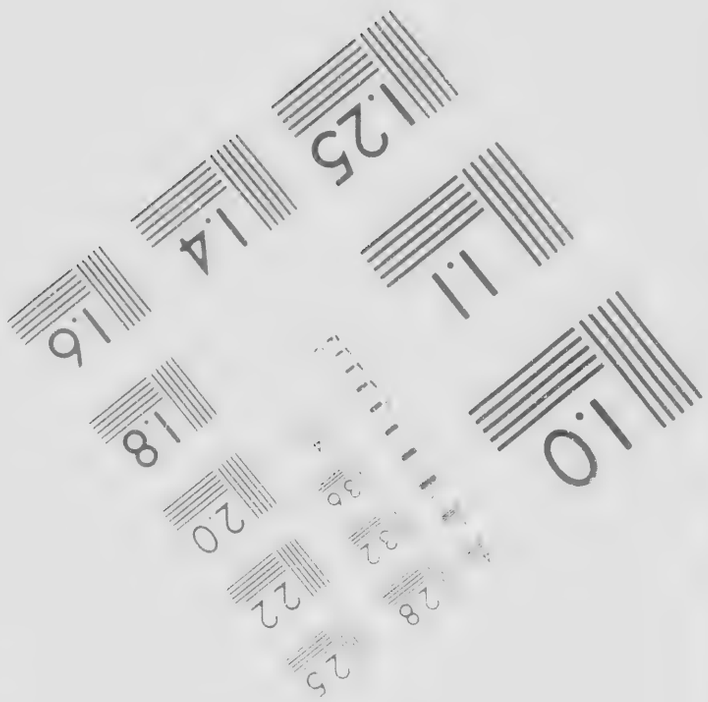

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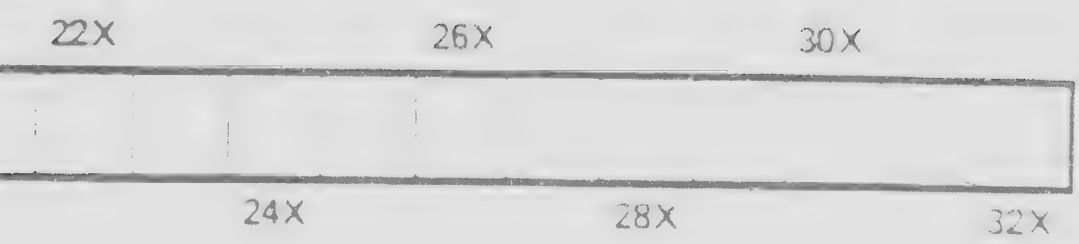

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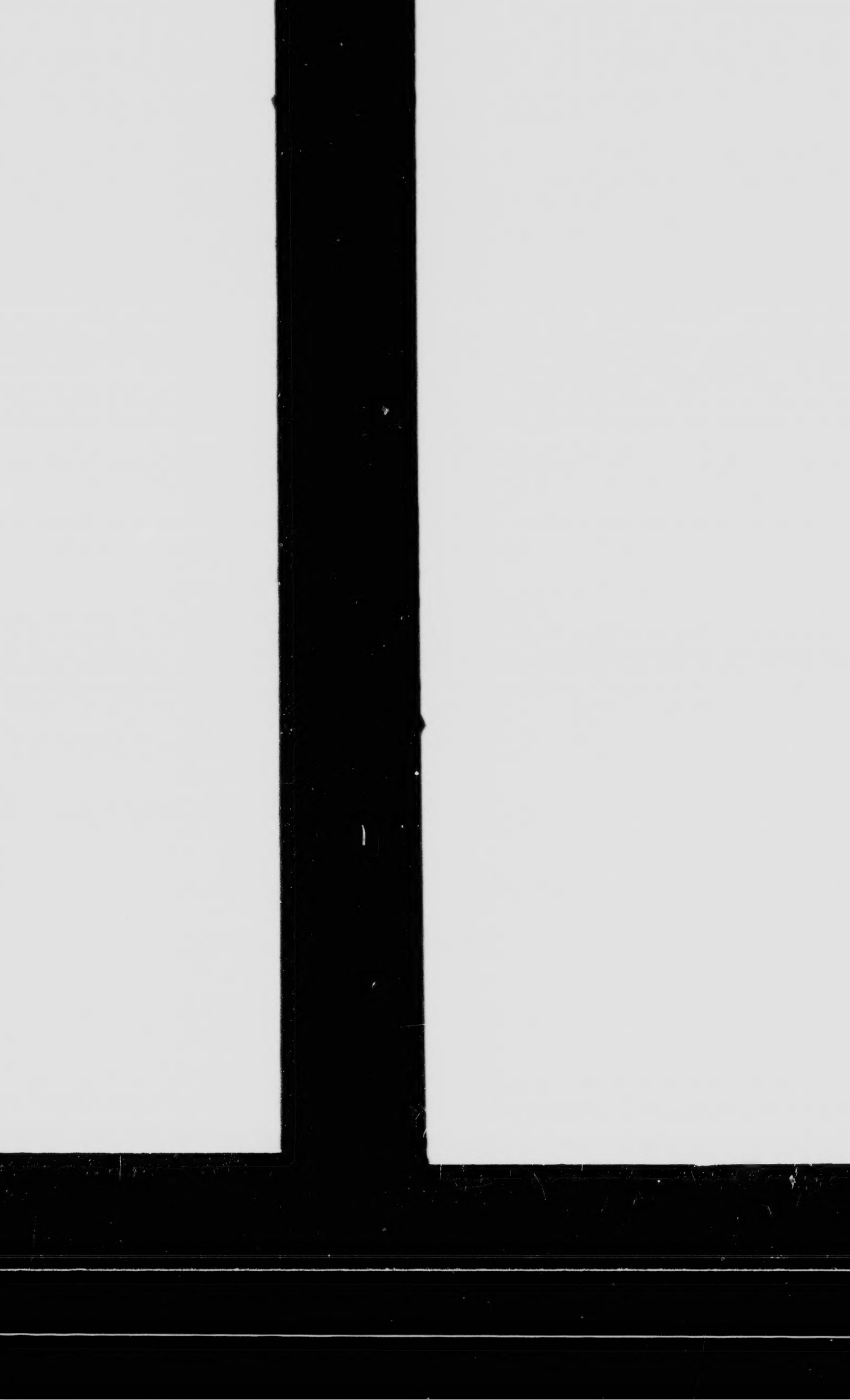

into ſtates, agreeable to the ſyſtem at preſent [illegible]
them will not ſoon, if ever, have a ſufficient number of inh
the conſequence of which muſt be, that they will continue
der among them, and the union without receiving any
The tract of country north-weſt of the river Ohio, having
the barren and fertile lands intermixed in no regular form,
of it, indiſpenſably neceſſary to pay particular attention t
circumſtances of the ſettlements, men will, from natural l
make; and ſuch a variety of circumſtances muſt come int
of ſtates there, on a more perfect knowledge of a country
plored; that it is, in the opinion of the committee, highl
or condition, ſo far to limit the United States in Congr
there, as to preclude the conſideration of the future intereſt
condition of that country, and the circumſtances of ſettle
of dividing that country into ſtates heretofore adopted, n
ledge of it would then ſuggeſt, yet a further inveſtigation
that it is in ſome degree defective, and incapable of being

Therefore they ſubmit the following reſolve:

RESOLVED, That it be recommended to the legiſlatures
~~and~~ Virginia, to take into conſideration their ſaid acts of c
as to empower the United States in Congreſs aſſembled, to
of ~~ſaid ceded lands and~~ territory, as the ſituation of the c
may require, with this limitation and condition, howeve
United States, lying north-weſt of the river Ohio, ſhall b
not leſs than two, nor more than five, to be admitted into
ples and in the forms heretofore eſtabliſhed and provided.

f inhabitants to form a government;
nue without laws, and without or-
any advantages or aid from them.
ving many natural boundaries, and
orm, it will be found in the diviſion
on to thoſe boundaries, and to the
ral local advantages, be induced to
e into view in fixing the dimenſions
ntry, as yet, in ſome degree unex-
highly inexpedient, by any compact
ongreſs aſſembled in forming ſtates
tereſt of the confederacy, the future
ettlers in it; and though the mode
d, may be as perfect as our know-
ion of the ſubject muſt fully evince
eing carried into effect.

tures of the ſtates of ~~Maſſachuſetts~~
of ceſſion, and reviſe the ſame ſo far
d, to make ſuch diviſion, into ſtates
he country and future circumſtances
wever, that all the territory of the
all be formed into a number of ſtates
into the confederacy on the princi-
ded.